AGENDA

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

September 9, 2004
10:00 a.m.
SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or agenda items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must notify the Secretary and fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the June 10, 2004 meeting. (Minutes will be available at the meeting and just prior to the meeting on the Task Force website: http://www.scag.ca.gov/wptf/index.htm.)

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Stormwater Management Update

Bo Cutter, a Task Force member and Professor at UCR (Department of Environmental Sciences), will provide an update on two key areas of storm water management: on-site retention alternatives and financing strategies for storm water initiatives.

4.2 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Metals in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek

On September 2, 2004 the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is scheduled to hold a workshop on a metals pollution control plan (TMDL) for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. The Board is expected to adopt a TMDL at a future meeting. A panel of speakers will brief the Task Force on the Board's proposed plan for the Los Angeles River. The panel will include Melinda Becker (Regional Board staff), Clayton Yoshida (City of Los Angeles), Dan Lafferty (County of Los Angeles), Rodney Andersen (City of Burbank), Bob Wu (Caltrans District #7) and Richard Watson (consultant to cities in the Coalition for Practical Regulation).

4.3 TMDL Planning in Calleguas Creek Watershed: Controlling Metals Pollution

Don Kendall, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will brief the Task Force on the Metals TMDL planning approach being used in the Calleguas Creek Watershed

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

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MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

September 9, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Stormwater Management Update***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Bo Cutter, a Task Force member and Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Riverside will discuss recent developments in on-site runoff retention practices, along with recent developments in financing of stormwater management programs.

Many of the recent studies of urban stormwater management point to the high costs associated with meeting water quality standards in the SCAG region. The approaches studied feature large-scale collection and treatment systems, systems that are particularly costly when used in the dense urban watersheds of southern California. One study commissioned by Caltrans that assumed the use of larger scale collection and treatment facilities resulted in a cost estimate for water quality compliance of more than $50 billion in Los Angeles County alone.

These costs have prompted many to look more closely at the potential for compliance with the use of small, on-site systems, rather than relying only on regional facilities. This strategy for runoff management is being considered for use on existing properties, as well as on new infill developments. A small-scale approach plays off of the extraordinary cost of real estate in the region (a key impediment for large collection and treatment facilities) and the increased public involvement fostered by systems and practices that are immediate to individual properties.

Since traditional public works solutions for water quality compliance tend to favor larger-scale systems the on-site approach to stormwater management remains more of a novel idea for special situations than a practical and proven alterative for routine application. As current efforts continue and as financial incentives operate in tandem with public policies the potential for small-scale systems will become increasingly feasible.

A memo prepared by Dr. Cutter is included in the Agenda attachments.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

September 9, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Metals in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek range County's Ground Water Replenishment System***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

A federal consent decree reached in 1998 requires USEPA and the Regional Board to prepare and adopt a large number of pollution control plans for impaired water bodies in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. The plans, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), are expected to determine the pollutant carrying capacity of these water bodies and then prevent any pollution beyond this threshold. This process has been organized to comply with a court-determined schedule by which selected reaches in the rivers, streams and creeks in our urban watersheds will be evaluated for pollutants and their sources. Once the sources are identified the TMDL will require the various pollutant sources to reduce the discharges enough to eliminate the impairment to the affected water body.

The Regional Board, acting for USEPA in this court mandate, has recently prepared a draft control plan for reducing the metals pollution in the Ballona Creek and Los Angeles River. Instead of adopting its Metals TMDL at its meeting on September 2, the Regional Board held a workshop for those wishing to offer comments on the proposal. The Board indicated that it will adopt a Metals TMDL at a subsequent meeting.

The Task Force will be briefed on the Los Angeles River portion of this important proposal by a panel of speakers. The panel will include Melinda Becker (Regional Board staff), Clayton Yoshida (City of Los Angeles), Dan Lafferty (County of Los Angeles), Rodney Andersen (City of Burbank), Bob Wu (Caltrans District #7) and Richard Watson (consultant to cities in the Coalition for Practical Regulation).

The formal written comments from these entities on the draft TMDL for the Los Angeles River are included in the Agenda attachments, preceded by an introduction of the draft Plan by the Regional Board staff.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

September 9, 2004

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***TMDL Planning in Calleguas Creek Watershed: Controlling Metals Pollution***

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

During the past two years the Task Force has been periodically briefed on the TMDL issues and planning process occurring within the Calleguas Creek Watershed. First initiated by the Callegaus Municipal Water District, the effort has grown into a watershed-wide planning program with many stakeholders. Critical in this program, the stakeholders have worked with the Regional Board to develop TMDLs on a more comprehensive basis in order to create a consistency between early planning and later planning. The idea of a comprehensive approach is to develop pollution control plans and related investments that will be compatible with other controls for pollutants that may require management at some future time.

To date the Calleguas Creek Watershed has accomplished more with comprehensive TMDL planning that any other area of the SCAG region. Though it is still relatively early in their process the effort has made unmistakable gains since the initial controversy over their water bodies impaired by chlorides.

Don Kendall, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District, will discuss with the Task Force the way in which their process is integrating control plans for metal pollutants, including chromium, zinc, nickel, and silver.